

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM: LONDON

Info

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1668, OCTOBER 23.

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EMBASSY TODAY RECEIVED ABOUT 100 WRITTEN OR ORAL COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON CUBAN SITUATION FROM MEMBERS BRITISH PUBLIC. MAJORITY OF THESE CRITICAL OF U.S. ACTION ON GROUNDS SOVIET ROCKETS IN CUBA NO DIFFERENT U.S. ROCKETS IN TURKEY, U.S. BLOCKADE OF CUBA PROVOCATIVE AND WORLD WAR THREATENED BY U.S. ACTION.

EMBASSY ALSO PICKETED THROUGH MUCH OF DAY BY SMALL NUMBER OF YOUTHS CARRYING OR SHOUTING "HANDS OFF CUBA" OR "NO NUCLEAR WAR OVER CUBA" SLOGANS. ABOUT A DOZEN PUSHED WAY INTO CHANCERY IN MORNING AND STAGED SITDOWN PROTEST IN ATTEMPT TO SEE AMBASSADOR AND RECEIVE FROM HIM PROMISE THAT U.S. WOULD NOT INITIATE WORLD WAR OVER CUBA. WRITTEN STATEMENT ACCEPTED FROM THEM BY EMBASSY OFFICER AND THEY WERE THEN CARRIED OUT BY COOPERATIVE LONDON POLICE.

PROTESTS CLEARLY ORIGINATED FOR MOST PART FROM PROFESSED COMMUNISTS OR NUCLEAR DISARMERS.

ON BRIGHTER SIDE, TWO AMERICAN RADIO CORRESPONDENTS FOUND "MAN IN THE STREET" LARGELY IN FAVOR OF PRESIDENT'S ACTION. IN COURSE OF 12 INTERVIEWS FOUND ONLY 2 CRITICAL. CONSENSUS BY SEVERAL NEWSMEN THAT FEELING OF PUBLIC MORE RECEPTIVE TO MEASURES ANNOUNCED THAN EDITORIAL COMMENTS (SENT TO USINFO) WOULD INDICATE.

TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT MAY HAVE PREVENTED ORGANIZERS OF PROTESTS GETTING FULLY INTO ACTION TODAY. INCREASED ACTIVITY BEGINNING THIS EVENING LONDON AND ELSEWHERE IS EXPECTED.

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-2- 1668, OCTOBER 23, FROM LONDON

MANCHESTER CONSULATE HAVE REPORTED RECEIVING PETITION OF
PROTEST WITH 200 SIGNATURES.

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